

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 195147
ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 /022 R

DRAFTED BY COM/BIC/CAGNE/JBHEARN
APPROVED BY EB/OCA:WRAU
COM/BIC/CAGNE/PBHALE
COM/AGC/PBREED
NEA/RA:DTMORRISON
NEA/ARP:J J ZIOLKOWSKI
L/NEA:DSMALL

-----070164 171835Z /45

R 171607Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP,QA

SUBJECT: LOOSENING OF BOYCOTT REGULATIONS IN QATAR

REF: (A) DOHA 628; (B) STATE 85087; (C) DOHA 456
(D) MANAMA 1779

1. APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S EXPLANATION REF (A) OF QATARI
RATIONALE FOR DELETING REQUIREMENT FOR CERTIFICATION THAT
VESSELS ARE NOT BLACKLISTED. QATAR'S ATTEMPT TO MAKE ITS
DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS CONSISTENT WITH U.S. REGULA-
TIONS IN ORDER TO AVOID DISRUPTION OF U.S.-QATAR TRADE
RELATIONS IS MUCH APPRECIATED.

2. WHILE WE WELCOME QATARI INITIATIVE, AMENDED LANGUAGE
OF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR VESSELS REPORTED REF (C)
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TO EFFECT THAT "VESSEL IS NOT BANNED IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES"
DOES NOT AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF REPORTABLE BOYCOTT
CONDITION UNDER USDOC REGULATIONS CURRENTLY IN FORCE.

MOREOVER, GIVEN LANGUAGE OF NEW LAW, IT IS LIKELY THAT
USDOC IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS NOW IN PREPARATION WILL
PROHIBIT COMPLIANCE WITH REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION STATED

IN THESE TERMS. HOWEVER, DEFINITIVE RULING MUST AWAIT
FINAL ISSUANCE OF NEW REGULATIONS.

3. POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO HAVE CERTIFICATION
REQUIREMENT (PREFERABLY ISSUED BY MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
AND COMMERCE RATHER THAN BOYCOTT OFFICE) LIMITED TO (A)
NAME, FLAG, AND NATIONALITY OF VESSEL AND STATEMENT THAT
IT WILL NOT TRANSIT ISRAELI PORTS BEFORE CALLING IN
QATAR; AND (B) RESTRICTIONS PERTAINING TO VESSEL SAFETY
REQUIREMENTS, IMPROPER REGISTRATION, ETC. (PER REF (A)).
THIS ALTERNATIVE WOULD APPEAR TO MEET QATARI OBJECTIVES
REPORTED PARA 2 REF (A). -

4. EMBASSY REQUESTED ASCERTAIN QATARI REACTION TO
SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE APPROACH.

5. REGRET DELAY IN OUR RESPONSE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE195147
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BIC/CAGNE/JBHEARN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770297-0260
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770852/aaaabrvf.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1c196b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 DOHA 628, 77 STATE 85087, 77 DOHA 456, 77 MANAMA 1779
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1574750
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOOSENING OF BOYCOTT REGULATIONS IN QATAR
TAGS: BEXP, QA
To: DOHA MANAMA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1c196b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009